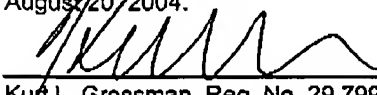


**CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE**

I hereby certify that this correspondence for Application No. 10/785,550 is being facsimile transmitted to Technology Center 3700, via Central Fax Number (703) 872-9306, on August 20, 2004.

  
Kurt L. Grossman, Reg. No. 29,799

8/20/04  
Date

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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Serial No.: 10/785,550  
Filed: February 24, 2004  
Group-Art Unit: 3763  
Examiner: Unknown  
Applicant: Bernd Thureau, et al.  
Title: Diaphragm-Based Reservoir for a Closed Blood Sampling System  
Attorney Docket: MDX-291US  
Confirmation No.: 8154

**OFFICIAL**

Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

August 20, 2004

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Prior to examination of the above-identified application, please amend the application as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 26 of this paper.